

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1317

October 13, 2021

Federal Register Notice of Request for Written Comments in Support of the Department of Defense's One-Year Response to Executive Order 14017, "America's Supply Chains"

Chairs of the bipartisan House Military Depot, Arsenal and Industrial Facilities Caucus are responding with concerns about resiliency of the organic industrial base (OIB). Modernizing and sustaining the OIB plays a crucial role in our efforts to create resiliency in America's Supply Chains, meet the National Defense Strategy and compete with near-peer adversaries.

Question 1 – From your perspective, how has the globalization of the supply chain improved or complicated your ability to source DoD's requirements?

Supply chain globalization is necessary for efficiency and effectiveness. There has however been an over-reliance on global sourcing of supplies important to defense of the nation resulting in underinvestment in the OIB. The lack of domestic supply chain resiliency has unfortunately been highlighted over the past two years. We would also add that supply chain redundancy can't rely on foreign suppliers. Redundancy of the defense industrial base must reside in the U.S.

Question 2. What are the one or two greatest challenges your firm/association/industry faces operating in a distributed environment?

Global distribution of the defense industrial base has led to a lack of investment in domestic manufacturing, both public and private. This has created unpredictable workflow in the OIB resulting in an aging workforce with decreasing competency and high work rate costs.

Question 3. Are there ways DoD can better support your efforts to mitigate such challenges?

Investments in the domestic defense industrial base must be predictable and sustainable. This will create a consistent workflow and attract a workforce for development to meet tomorrow's defense production challenges before it is too late. There is a significant backlog in infrastructure needs at Department of Defense OIB facilities as well as Laboratories and Major Range and Test Facility bases throughout the country.

Question 3. How does the federal government effectively mitigate supply chain risks?

The Department of Defense has completed studies on how to increase and maintain defense manufacturing core competencies and provided the number of task hours per worker needed. The Organic Industrial Base has not been successful in meeting these goals and work force competencies are declining. The Department should consider this when deciding how to distribute work within the defense industrial base to allow the OIB to meet their core competency goals.

Question 4. What can the government do differently to better address supply chain risks and vulnerabilities in our major weapon systems/platforms (e.g., PGMs) and critical components (e.g., microelectronics)?

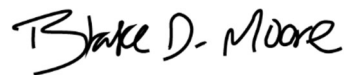
Build on and invest in the organic specialties needed to support the Department's major weapons systems. The network of DoD Centers of Excellence should be prioritized with modernization and sustainment, and DoD innovation institutes should be viewed as partners in this endeavor.

Question 5. What can the government do differently to successfully implement industrial base cybersecurity processes or protocols, attract skilled labor, implement standards, and incentivize the adoption of manufacturing technology?

Public-Private Partnerships through the Manufacturing Innovation Institutes are already focused on technology, supply chain resiliency and workforce development. The Department should recommit to collaborating with these institutes to address the many challenges facing America's Supply Chains.



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